Witness in Plot Probe Seeks to Avoid N.O. Trip

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A Los Angeles man sought by District Attorney Jim Garrison as a material witness in his probe of the assassination of President Kennedy is seeking to avoid coming to New Orleans.

Lawrence Howard Jr., 32, appearing in Los Angeles Superior Court on a show cause hearing why he should not be ordered to New Orleans, told the court the trip would impose a hardship on him and his family.

THE HEARING was continued to Jan. 26. Howard's attorney, Bruce P. Wolfe, said the Los Angeles district attorney does not object to Howard's move to avoid returning to New Orleans.

Wolfe said the subpena for the return does not require his appearance in New Or-

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leans until the first week in February.

Howard urged in court that Garrison send a deputy to take his deposition. But he told the court that he has no special information he can provide Garrison.

Howard's attorney said Garrison has "very subtly" labeled Howard a conspirator in the killing of President John F. Kennedy, although he was subpenaed as a material witness.

In an affidavit accompanying the subpena, Garrison claims that Howard was an associate of David Ferrie, Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, according to Wolfe.

WOLFE SAID he is afraid Howard would get indicted for something if he appeared in New Orleans.

Howard added that he does not have any information to give Garrison but said he would give him a deposition in a court of law under oath if Garrison would come to Los Angeles.